detail at this stage is in response to the above exercise of TTCI.

(e) and (f) Sickness of the gardens owned by TTCI pertains to the period prior to the issue of Public Notice of 1.8.1998 whereby Govt. have allowed free import of tea from Sri Lanka.

In order to precent entry of low grade tea in India, the Government aims to modify the current import policy so as to make import of tea subject to the following conditions:

(i) Import of various categories of tea may be allowed subject to submission of a certificate of origin and in analytical report issued by an agency as approved by the Govt. of India certifying conformity of the produce to ISO 3720.

(ii) Import of green tea waste and black tea waste may be permitted subject to the provisions of the Tea Waste (Control) Order, 1959 issued under provisions of the Tea Act, 1953.

Setting up of a Chilli Board

2017. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh has urged to set up a Chilli Board to promote the export of Chillies; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The development, research and marketing export promotion of spices including chillies is well taken care of by the following three institutes of the Government of India set up for this purpose:

(i) Directorate of Cocoa, Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut;

(ii) ICAR and Research Institutes;

(iii) Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce.

Spices Board is primarily responsible for export promotion of all spices including chillies. The research and development aspects of chillies are looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture. Setting up a separate Board for chillies would involve unnecessary duplication of work and would not result in commensurate gains. In view of this, it is felt that it would not be advisable to set up a separate Board for chillies.

Trade Relations with Bangladesh

2018. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand trade relations with Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the areas in which trade relations have been established in the past and expanded during the last three years;

(c) the proposal for expansion and consideration at present; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The current Trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh was singed on 4th October, 1980 for expansion and promotion of bilateral trade. The Agreement which was valid for a period of three years has been extended from time to time. With effect from 4th October, 1988 the Agreement has been extended for a further period of three years till 3rd October, 2001. the Agreement governs trade relations between the two countries and provides for cooperation in all areas relating to bilateral trade.

The areas of trade relations change from time to time. They are discussed in various bilateral discussions. Because of these efforts, bilateral trade has increased from Rs. 2143.97 cr. In 1994-95 to Rs.